

contracts by up to five days, decrease or eliminate inservice days for teachers, increase the length of the school day, number of hours the teachers are being asked to stay in the building. In some cases they are eliminating their preparation time. Some of these proposals may be needed in order to meet the 1,080 hours, but the problem is we have done with this bill as we do with so many others, as we have done with this bill this morning, 727. In previous Legislatures we have chosen to implement language but we have not funded it. If you remember, 994 in its original form had a lot of reforms in education and some money to put into that to make...to provide some funding for implementing these proposals. What we have done is we have mandated this 1,080 hours but we provided no money to go along with it. So what is happening is the teachers are being asked to perform...spend more hours in the classroom, fewer hours in inservice, longer contract hours. We have not provided any money either to local school boards to make it easier for them to implement these procedures or on the state level. So what we are saying by this amendment is, let's also hold off one year our implementation of this 1,080 hours to give the teachers associations on the local level chances to bring this into consideration in their collective bargaining agreements and also to give us on the state level an opportunity to one more time address, are we serious about quality education in this state and do we, on the state level, plan on funding the provisions that we promised last year in LB 994? That's a fairly lengthy speech to explain why I am offering a fairly simple amendment and that simple amendment is let us delay the implementation date of the 1,080 hour requirement to August 1 of 1987. I would urge you...Senator Pappas says no one is listening, but I know Senator Pappas always listens and Senator Nichol, see, Senator Pappas, you were wrong, Senator Smith is listening. I have everyone's undivided attention here and after that I would very much appreciate your support of this amendment.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Madam President and members, I appreciate Senator Withem getting the undivided attention of everybody before I stand up to speak because I am going to stand up to oppose Senator Withem in this amendment. It is very strange that we, as a state, are criticized severely many times because of the various things that we mandate to local subdivisions of government, particularly to the schools of